

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS STATISTICS
SEPTEMBER, 1945.

EVENING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 1945.
 MORNING PAPERS : THURSDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1945.

(1)

This summary is the first to be issued by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician as to numbers of persons receiving benefits under the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1945, which came into operation on 1st July, 1945. The summary covers the first three months' operations and future summaries will be issued at monthly intervals.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who on account of some special circumstance, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The numbers of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of a "means test" excludes another group from benefit. Some persons entitled to benefit may not yet be aware of the provisions of the Act.

The total number of benefits granted and discontinued during the period 1st July to 29th September, 1945, and beneficiaries remaining on benefit at 29th September, 1945, in each class of benefit is shown in the following table:-

AUSTRALIA : Claims admitted, etc., from 1st July, 1945 to 29th September, 1945.

Class of Benefit	Claims admitted during period			Exits during period			On benefit at 29th September, 1945		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Unemployment ..	832	87	919	383	55	438	449	32	481
Sickness ..	6,597	1,263	7,860	3,078	489	3,567	3,519	774	4,293
Special ..	5	40	45	2	2	4	3	38	41
TOTAL:	7,434	1,390	8,824	3,463	546	4,009	3,971	844	4,815

The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 29th September, 1945:-

STATES : Number of Persons on Benefit at 29th September, 1945.

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
New South Wales (a)	166	13	1,483	313	1	7	1,650	333	1,983
Victoria ..	88	2	731	194	-	6	819	202	1,021
Queensland ..	66	10	516	84	1	6	583	100	683
South Australia (b)	45	4	337	81	-	1	382	86	468
Western Australia	66	3	282	68	1	5	349	76	425
Tasmania ..	18	-	170	34	-	13	188	47	235
TOTAL:	449	32	3,519	774	3	38	3,971	844	4,815

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

Of the 481 persons on unemployment benefit at 29th September, 1945, 298 (or 62 per cent.) were unemployed on account of scarcity of work and 154 (or 32 per cent.) because of physical or mental disabilities.

Analysis of the ages of those on unemployment benefit at 29th September, 1945, revealed that 211 persons (or 44 per cent.) were 50 years of age and over.

The following table shows the principal types of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, etc., of those who were in receipt of Sickness Benefit at 29th September, 1945:-

AUSTRALIA : Nature of Sickness - Persons on Benefit at 29th September, 1945.

Nature of Sickness		Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	..	201	56	257
Cancer and Other Tumours ..	..	70	32	102
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases ..	..	270	87	357
Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs ..	..	27	22	49
Diseases of -				
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	..	340	127	467
Circulatory System ..	..	426	38	464
Respiratory System ..	..	400	54	454
Digestive System ..	..	709	104	813
Genito-Urinary System ..	..	138	55	193
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	..	-	39	39
Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	..	165	18	183
Bones and Organs of Movement ..	..	113	23	136
Other Diseases (including Ill-Defined Conditions) ..	..	51	29	80
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -				
Fractures ..	..	355	30	385
Other Injuries, etc. ..	..	207	24	231
Operations (original disability not stated) ..	..	40	33	73
Other ..	..	7	3	10
TOTAL:		3,519	774	4,293

The two most prevalent infective and parasitic diseases were tuberculosis and influenza. Mental disorders were the most common complaints in diseases of the nervous system whilst heart diseases were by far the most important diseases of the circulatory system. Bronchitis, pneumonia and pleurisy accounted for most of the respiratory diseases. Appendicitis, hernia and ulcers of stomach and duodenum accounted for most of the diseases of the digestive system.

Distribution, according to main industrial groups of those who were in receipt of unemployment and sickness benefits at 29th September, 1945 is shown in the following statement:-

AUSTRALIA : Industrial Groups - Persons on Benefit at 29th September, 1945.

Industrial Group	Unemployment			Sickness		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairyiing ..	53	1	54	196	6	202
Other Primary Production ..	6	-	6	52	-	52
Coal Mining ..	2	-	2	187	-	187
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	18	-	18	49	-	49
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working, including shipbuilding ..	55	4	59	741	41	782
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	30	-	30	207	20	227
Textiles and articles of dress ..	7	5	12	111	71	282
Food, drink and tobacco ..	43	2	45	265	53	318
Other Factories, including heat, light and power ..	38	-	38	433	60	493
Building and Construction ..	44	-	44	312	3	315
Transport and Communication ..	34	3	37	323	23	346
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	42	5	47	308	134	442
Finance and Property ..	2	-	2	18	14	32
Public Administration and Professional ..	42	2	44	197	114	311
Personal and Domestic Service ..	24	9	33	115	133	248
Other ..	9	1	10	5	2	7
TOTAL:	449	32	481	3,519	774	4,293

The number of "persons on benefit" shown in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependents of such beneficiaries are not included.